

# ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Regular Session

#### FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1652

appropriations; attorney general; investigation; litigation

## **Purpose**

Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the state General Fund in FY 2022 and FY 2023 to the Attorney General (AG) for investigation and litigation related to antitrust and voting integrity issues.

## Background

Statute enumerates the many duties of the AG. The AG represents political subdivisions, school districts and municipalities in suits pertaining to antitrust, restraint of trade or price-fixing activities or conspiracies. Additionally, the AG is the legal advisor of the departments of the state and renders legal services as the departments require (A.R.S. § 41-192).

The AG approves long-range plans for developing departmental programs and coordinates the legal services required by departments of the state or other Arizona agencies (<u>A.R.S. § 41-192</u>). The Arizona Legislature appropriated \$500,000 in FY 2020 to the AG for election litigation expenses and \$530,000 in FY 2021 to the AG for a voter fraud unit (<u>FY 2020 State Agency Budgets</u>) and <u>FY 2021 State Agency Budgets</u>). Following the appropriation of funds, the AG established an Election Integrity Unit, which prosecutes anyone found to have committed voter fraud (<u>AG</u>).

There is a negative fiscal impact of \$1,000,000 to the state General Fund in FY 2022 and FY 2023 associated with this legislation.

## **Provisions**

- 1. Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the state General Fund in FY 2022 and FY 2023 to the AG for investigation and litigation related to antitrust and voting integrity issues.
- 2. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research February 9, 2021 JA/RC/kja